

# Introducción a la Bioinformática:

## Comparative Genomics: Sequence Alignments I

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## Motivation:

# Evolutionary History of the Sequences

Any alignment between two or more nucleotide or amino acid sequences **represents an explicit hypothesis** regarding the evolutionary history of those sequences.

## Motivation:

# Comparisons of Sequences facilitate their Understanding

Comparisons of related protein and nucleotide sequences have facilitated advances in understanding the content and function of genetic sequences.

## Motivation:

# Solving Key Problems in Bioinformatics

Sequence alignments provide important information for solving many of the key problems in bioinformatics including:

- ▶ Find **evolutionary relationships** between organisms (genes, proteins), and
- ▶ Identify the **function** of a newly discovered genetic sequence;
- ▶ Predicting the **structure and function** of proteins.

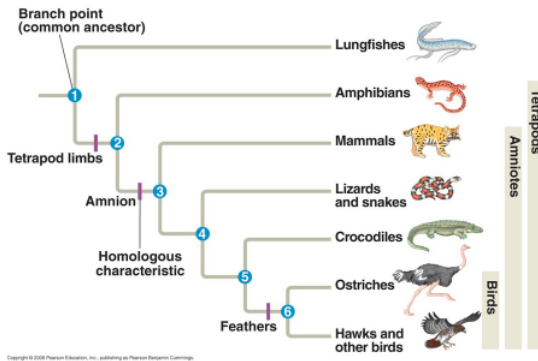
# The Biological Problem

## Basic Question in Biology

What properties are shared among organisms?

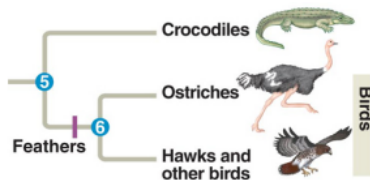
# Homology: Organisms share Characteristics

## Descent from a common ancestor



[http://www.bio.miami.edu/dana/160/160S13\\_5.html](http://www.bio.miami.edu/dana/160/160S13_5.html)

# Homology: Sequences match Positions



# Sequence Similarity

Intuitively, similarity of two sequences refers to the degree of match between corresponding positions in sequence

## Similarity between sequences

G	G	A	T	C	G	-	-	G	A	T	T	C	G	A	A	T	G	A	T	T	C
G	G	A	T	C	G	C	C	T	G	C	C	-	-	-	A	T	G	A	T	T	C

## Similarity between strings

G	A	R	F	I	E	L	D	T	H	E	L	A	S	T	F	A	-	T	C	A	T
G	A	R	F	I	E	L	D	T	H	E	V	E	R	Y	F	A	S	T	C	A	T



# Similarity vs. Homology

- ▶ Similarity **does not imply** homology
- ▶ Similarity can occur **by chance**
- ▶ But, homology **is expected to cause** similarity

# Homology and Evolution

Homology is more difficult to detect over greater evolutionary

```
#mutations
```

```
0:          agtgtccgttaagtgcgttc
8:          agtgtccgcttcaaggggcgt
64:         acagtccgttcgggctattg
256:        cacgagtaagatatagct
1024:       acccttatctacttcctggagtt
2048:       agcgacctgcccac
4096:       caaac
```

# Sequence Alignment

Alignment specifies which positions in two sequences **match**

G	G	A	T	C	G	-	-	G	A	T	T	C	G	A	A	T	G	A	T	T	C
G	G	A	T	C	G	C	C	T	G	C	C	-	-	-	A	T	G	A	T	T	C

# Edit Operations

Different types of possible mutations:

- ▶ **Match**: Points where a single base do not change
- ▶ **Mismatch**: substitution (point mutation) of a single base
- ▶ **Indel**: insertion or deletion of a base with respect to the ancestor sequence:
- ▶ **Gap**: Result of an insertion or deletion in the sequence

G	G	A	T	C	G	-	-	G	A	T	T	C	G	A	A	T	G	A	T	T	C
G	G	A	T	C	G	C	C	T	G	C	C	-	-	-	A	T	G	A	T	T	C

- ▶ **13 matches, 4 mismatches**: 5 indels (2 insertions (■), 3 deletions (■) )

# Sequence Alignment Questions

- ▶ What sorts of alignments should be considered?
- ▶ How to score alignments?
- ▶ How to find optimal or good scoring alignments?
- ▶ How to evaluate the statistical significance of scores?

## First Question:

What sorts of alignments should be considered?

# Types of Alignments

- ▶ **Pairwise Alignments:** Between two sequences
  - ▶ Global Alignments
  - ▶ Local Alignments
- ▶ **Multiple Alignments:** Between more than two sequences

# Pairwise Alignments:

## Global Alignment

Target Sequence

```

5' ACTACTAGATTACTTACGGATCAGGTACTTTAGAGGCTTGCAACCA 3'
  |||||          |||||  ||||| ||||| |||||
5' ACTACTAGATT----ACGGATC--GTACTTTAGAGGCTAGCAACCA 3'

```

Query Sequence

## Pairwise Sequence Alignment

## Local Alignment

Target Sequence

```

5' ACTACTAGATTACTTACGGATCAGGTACTTTAGAGGCTTGCAACCA 3'
      |||  |||||  ||||| ||||| |||||

```

Query Sequence 5' TACTCACGGATGAGGTACTTTAGAGGC 3'



[illegible]

# Dot Plot Matrix: Strings

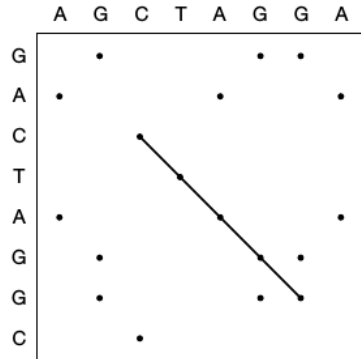
**String A:** DOROTHYCROWFOOTHODGKIN

**String B:** DOROTHYHODGKIN



# Dot Plot Matrix: Pair of Sequences

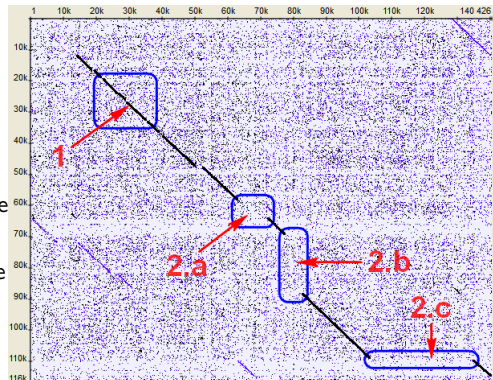
- ▶ Comparing two sequences:
  - ▶ AGCTAGGA
  - ▶ GACTAGGC
- ▶ Dots represent similarities between segments
- ▶ Diagonal of dots reveals similar elements



Not technically an "alignment" but it gives a picture of correspondence between pairs of sequences

# Dot Plot Matrix: Interpretation

- ▶ **1 Matches:** looks like diagonals (continuous match or repeat)
- ▶ **2a Mutations:** gaps in the diagonal
- ▶ **2b Insertions:** gaps which lie only one axis (Y axis)
- ▶ **2c Deletions:** gaps which lie only one axis (X axis)



# Dot Plot Matrix: Example

One alignment:

```

T C G G A T T C G T
| | | | |
T C G C G T T C - -
  
```

Alternate alignment:

```

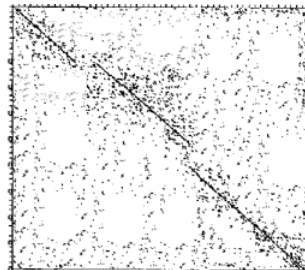
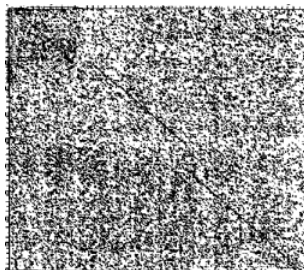
T C G G A T T C G T - -
| | |           | | |
T C G - - - - C G T T C
  
```

	T	C	G	G	A	T	T	C	G	T
T	•									
C		•								
G			•							
C								•		
G									•	
T						•				•
T							•			
C								•		

# Dot Plot Limitations

Problems with larger sequences sharing extensive regions of similarity

- Solution: filtering using a window size and threshold



# Alignment Considerations:

- ▶ **Homology is not a matter of degree**, individuals either share a common ancestor or they do not.
- ▶ **An lignment is simply a pairwise match** between the characters of each sequence.
- ▶ **A true alignment** (nucleotides or amino acids) reflects the evolutionary relationship between two or more homologous.
- ▶ **It needs a fractional value**, to decide if a true alignment reflects evolutionary relationship between two or more homologous

## Second Question

How to score alignments?



# Simple Alignments

Three possible **simple** alignments for AATCTATA y AAGATA:

```
AATCTATA
::  ::
AAGATA
```

```
AATCTATA
:
AAGATA
```

```
AATCTATA
      :::
AAGATA
```

Three kinds of changes can occur:

1. **A mutation** replacing one character with another
2. **An insertion** adding one or more position
3. **A deletion** deleting one or more position

# Scoring Simple Alignments

## Scoring function for a Simple Alignment:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \begin{cases} 1: \text{match score if } seq1=seq2 \\ 0: \text{mismatch score if } seq1 \neq seq2 \end{cases}$$

## Scoring the Alignments:

AATCTATA

:: ::

AAGATA

-----

Score = 4

AATCTATA

:

AAGATA

-----

Score = 1

AATCTATA

:::

AAGATA

-----

Score = 3

# Alignment with Gaps

- ▶ Insertions and deletions events complicates sequence alignments
- ▶ How many different possible subsets can be made from the larger set:
  - ▶ The number of possible alignments increase vastly.

$$C(7, 2) = 28$$

Only 5 of the 28 possible alignments :

AATCTATA	AATCTATA	AATCTATA	AATCTATA	AATCTATA
AAG-AT-A	AA-G-ATA	AA--GATA	A-A-GATA	AA-GAT-A

# Scoring Alignments with Gaps

## Scoring function for a Simple Alignment:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \begin{cases} -1 : \text{gap penalty, if seq1="-" or seq2="-"} \\ +1 : \text{match score, if seq1=seq2} \\ 0 : \text{mismatch score, if seq1} \neq \text{seq2} \end{cases}$$

## Scoring the Alignments:

AATCTATA	AATCTATA	AATCTATA	AATCTATA	AATCTATA
AAG-AT-A	AA-G-ATA	AA--GATA	A-A-GATA	AA-GAT-A
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Score =1	Score =3	Score =3	Score =2	Score =2

# Origination and Length Penalties

- **Indel events (indels):** Insertion and Deletion Events

What is more likely from an evolutionary perspective?

Without gaps

```
-----
AATCTATAGGGTAGAT
AAGATAGTAA
```

Multiple indels

```
-----
AATCTATAGGGTAGAT
AA-G-AT-A-GT--AT
```

Few indels

```
-----
AATCTATAGGGTAGAT
AAG--ATAG--TA--T
```

- Extended are more frequent than single multiple **indels events**
- Scoring function biased to reward alignments **extending gaps**

# Scoring Alignments with Gap Penalty

## Scoring function for a Simple Alignment:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \begin{cases} -2 : \text{origination gap penalty, if } seq1="-" \text{ or } seq2="-" \\ -1 : \text{length gap penalty, if } seq1="-" \text{ or } seq2="-" \\ +1 : \text{match score, if } seq1=seq2 \\ 0 : \text{mismatch score, if } seq1 \neq seq2 \end{cases}$$

Scoring:

AATCTATAGGGTAGAT

AA-G-AT-A-GT--AT

-----

Score = -3

AATCTATAGGGTAGAT

AAG--ATAG--TA--T

-----

Score = 0

# Scoring Matrices: Taking account conservative substitutions

Some substitutions are more common than others.

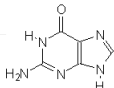
ADN, nucleotides:

Adenine



**The Purines**

Guanine



**The Pyrimidines**

Cytosine



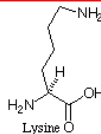
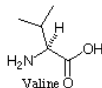
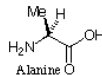
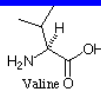
Thymine



Uracil



Proteins, Amino acids:



**Mismatch penalty** can be broken down as gap penalty

# Scoring Matrices: DNA Sequences

Identity Matrix				
	A	T	C	G
A	1	0	0	0
T	0	1	0	0
C	0	0	1	0
G	0	0	0	1

BLAST Matrix				
	A	T	C	G
A	5	-4	-4	-4
T	-4	5	-4	-4
C	-4	-4	5	-4
G	-4	-4	-4	5

Transition Transv.				
	A	T	C	G
A	5	-4	-4	1
T	-4	5	1	-4
C	-4	1	5	-4
G	1	-4	-4	5

- Scoring matrix is used to score each **nongap position**
  - Transitions transversion matrix provides mild penalty for **transitions**:
    - Purine (A or G) is replaced with another purine
    - Pyrimidine (C or T) is replaced with another pyrimidine



# Scoring Matrices: Amino Acid sequences

## ► PAM (Point Accepted Mutation):

- Computed by observing substitution rates
- Used to score closely related sequences

## ► BLOSUM (BLOcks SUBstitution Matrix):

- Computed by clustering ungapped alignments
- Used to score more distant related sequences

Blosum

	C	S	T	P	A	G	N	D	E	Q	H	R	K	M	I	L	V	F
C	9																	
S	-1	4																
T	-1	1	5															
P	-3	-1	-1	7														
A	0	1	0	-1	4													
G	-3	0	-2	-2	0	6												
N	-3	1	0	-2	-2	0	6											
D	-3	0	-1	-1	-2	-1	1	6										
E	-4	0	-1	-1	-1	-2	0	2	5									
Q	-3	0	-1	-1	-1	-2	0	0	2	5								
H	-3	-1	-2	-2	-2	-2	1	-1	0	0	8							
R	-3	-1	-1	-2	-1	-2	0	-2	0	1	0	5						
K	-3	0	-1	-1	-1	-2	0	-1	1	1	-1	2	5					
M	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	-3	-2	-3	-2	0	-2	-1	-1	5				
I	-1	-2	-1	-3	-1	-4	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	1	4			
L	-1	-2	-1	-3	-1	-4	-3	-4	-3	-2	-3	-2	-2	2	2	4		
V	-1	-2	0	-2	0	-3	-3	-3	-2	-3	-3	-2	-2	1	3	1	4	
F	-2	-2	-2	-4	-2	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-1	-3	-3	0	0	0	-1	6

## Third Question

How to find optimal or good scoring alignments?

# Types of Algorithms for Pairwise Alignments

- ▶ Exhaustive search
- ▶ Recursive algorithm
- ▶ Dynamic programming

# Exhaustive search

**Idea:** Search for each possible alignme

- ▶ It is not feasible for most sequences
  - ▶ Two modest-sized sequences of 100 and 95 nucleotides may produce ~75 million possible alignments
  - ▶ For larger sequences, search becomes **intractable**
- ▶ Impossible to compute in a reasonable amount of time

Impossible to compute in a reasonable amount of time

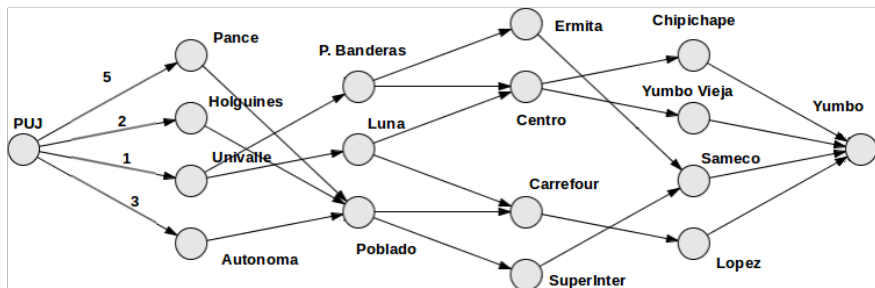
# Dynamic Programming

- ▶ DP is a method for reducing a complex problem to a set of identical sub-problems.
- ▶ The best solution to one sub-problem is independent from the best solution to the other sub-problems.
- ▶ **DP is a bottom-up mechanism:** we solve all possible small problems and then combine them to obtain solutions for bigger problems.

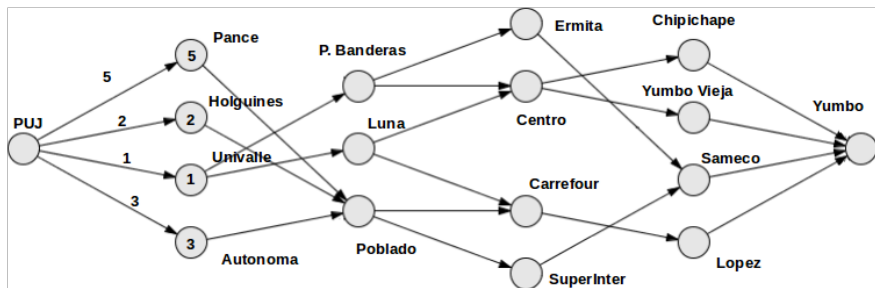
## Example: the Fibonacci Series

- ▶  $F(n) = F(n - 1) + F(n - 2)$
- ▶ Using DP, we solve it subproblem once

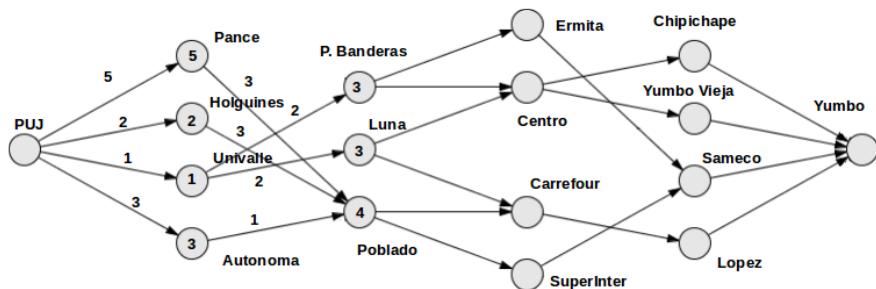
# Example: Shortest Path Problem (Initial)



# Example: Shortest Path Problem (01)

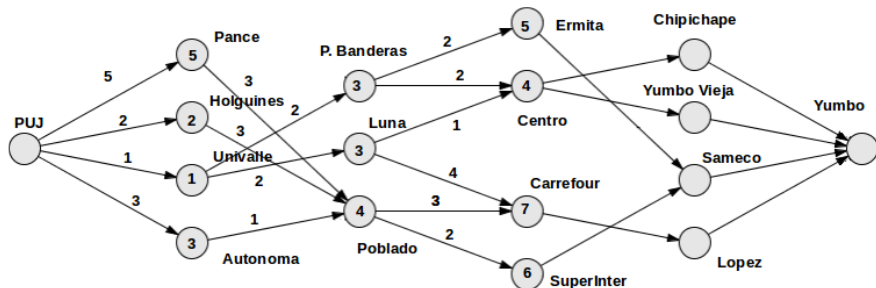


# Example: Shortest Path Problem (02)

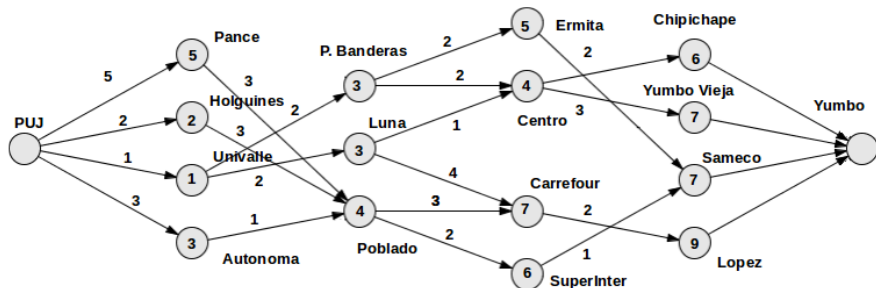




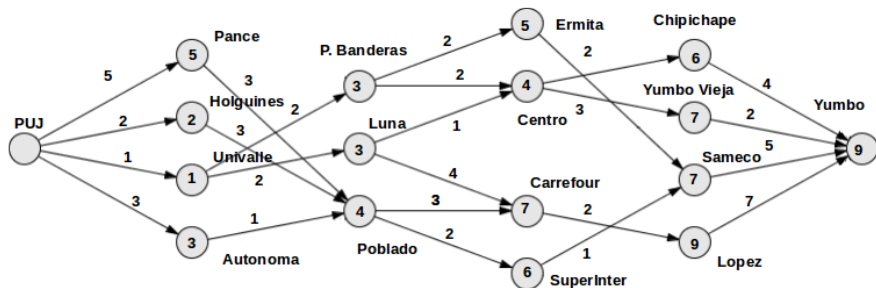
# Example: Shortest Path Problem (03)



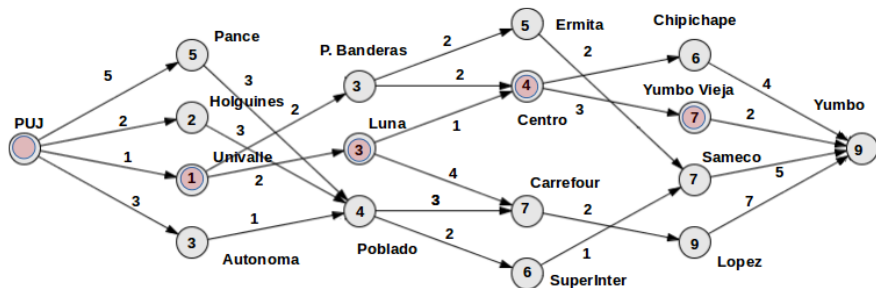
# Example: Shortest Path Problem (04)



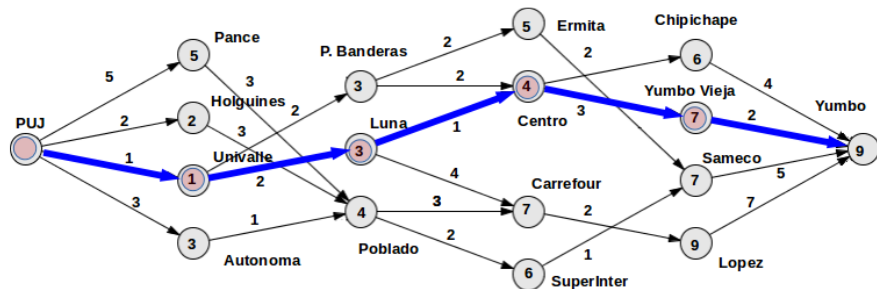
# Example: Shortest Path Problem (Final)



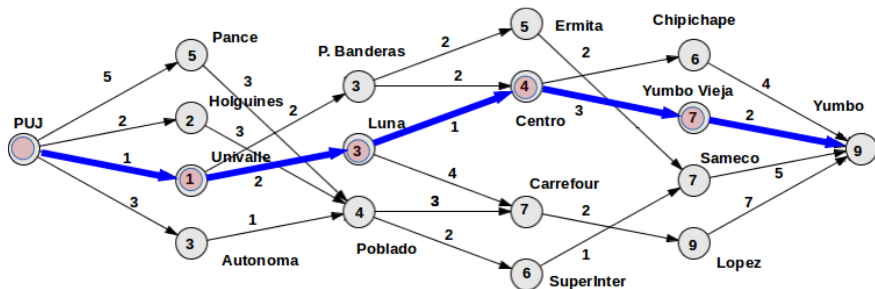
# Example: Shortest Path Problem (Backtracking)



# Example: Shortest Path Problem (Shortest Path)



# Example: Shortest Path Problem (Recursive Algorithm)



```
ShortestPath (PUJ, Yumbo):
  min(  5 + ShortestPath (Pance, Yumbo);
        2 + ShortestPath (Holguines, Yumbo);
        1 + ShortestPath (Univalle, Yumbo);
        2 + ShortestPath (Autonoma, Yumbo)
  )
```

# Too Many Recursive Calls

```
ShortestPath (Pance, Yumbo):  
    min( 5 + ShortestPath (Poblado, Yumbo))  
ShortestPath (Poblado, Yumbo):  
    min( 5 + ShortestPath (Carrefour, Yumbo);  
        5 + ShortestPath (SuperInter, Yumbo))  
...  
ShortestPath (Sameco, Yumbo):  
    min(5)  
  
5
```

```
ShortestPath (Univalle, Yumbo):  
    min( 2 + ShortestPath (PBanderas, Yumbo);  
        2 + ShortestPath (Luna, Yumbo))  
ShortestPath (PBanderas, Yumbo):  
    min( 2 + ShortestPath (Ermita, Yumbo);  
        2 + ShortestPath (Centro, Yumbo);)  
...
```

```
ShortestPath (Carrefour, Yumbo):  
...
```

```
ShortestPath (SuperInter, Yumbo):  
...
```

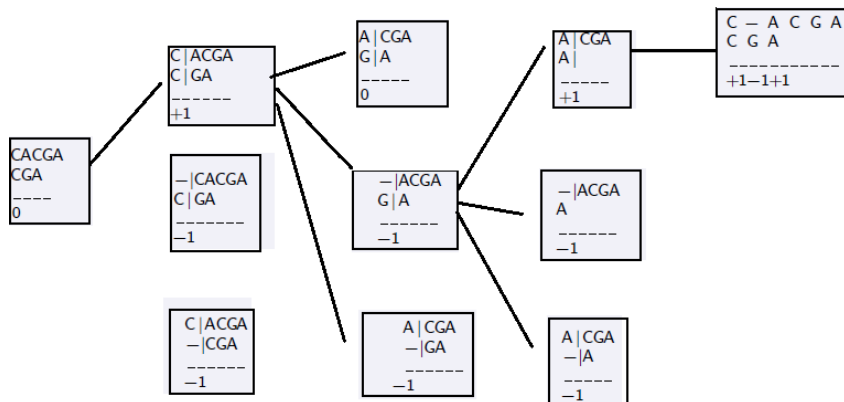
# Needleman and Wunsch Algorithm

## Global Alignments

- ▶ Needleman and Wunsch were the first to apply DP to sequence alignments
- ▶ Key to understanding DM approach to sequence alignment:  
Observing how the alignment problem is broken down into subproblems



## Example: Align the sequences CACGA y CGA



# Dynamic Programming Matrix

Sequence 1: CACGA  
Sequence 2: CGA

## Sequences CACGA y CGA

	-	C	A	C	G	A
-						
C						
G						
A						

# Dynamic Programming Matrix: Initialization with Penalty Gaps

- Uniform Penalty Gap of -1

## Moves:

- Horizontal: gap in the X-Axis
- Vertical: gap in the Y-Axis
- Diagonal: match or mismatch

Sequence 1: CACGA

Sequence 2: CGA

## CACGA y CGA

	-	C	A	C	G	A
-	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5
C	-1					
G	-2					
A	-3					

# Dynamic Programming Matrix:

## Edit Operations and Scoring Function

### Edit Operations

Sequence : CACGA

-----  
Substitution: GACGA

Indel:

Deletion (Del): -ACGA

Insertion (Ins): TGAGA

Sequence 1: CACGA

Sequence 2: CGA

### Scoring Function

Match: +1

Mismatch: 0

Indel: -1

### CACGA y CGA

	-	C	A	C	G	A
-	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5
C	-1					
G	-2					
A	-3					

# Dynamic Programming Matrix:

For each step

## Scoring Function

Match: +1  
Mismatch: 0  
Indel: -1

Compute the max score for each cell:

- ▶ According to the score
- ▶ According to the neighbors

Pos		1	2	3	4	5	6
		-	C	A	C	G	A
1	-	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5
2	C	-1	<div> <div>↖</div> <div>+1</div> <div>↘</div> <div>-1</div> <div>↖</div> <div>↘</div> <div>1</div> </div>				
3	G	-2					
4	A	-3					

# Dynamic Programming Matrix:

## Finish with backtracking

### Scoring Function

Match: +1  
 Mismatch: 0  
 Indel: -1

CACGA → CACGA  
 CGA → C--GA

	-	C	A	C	G	A
-	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5
C	-1	↖1	←0	←-1	-2	-3
G	-2	0	1	0	↖0	-1
A	-3	-1	1	1	0	↖1

# Dynamic Programming Matrix:

## Exercise

### Scoring Function

Match: +1  
 Mismatch: 0  
 Indel: -1

ACTCG	→	?
ACAGTAG	→	?

	-	A	C	T	C	G
-						
A						
C						
A						
G						
T						
A						
G						

# Dynamic Programming Matrix: Solution

## Scoring Function

Match: +1  
Mismatch: 0  
Indel: -1

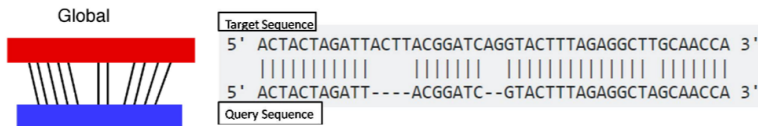
ACTCG → AC--TCG  
ACAGTAG → ACAGTAG

	-	A	C	T	C	G
-		-1	-2	-3	-4	-5
A	-1	1	0	-1	-2	-3
C	-2	0	2	1	0	-1
A	-3	-1	1	2	1	0
G	-4	-2	0	1	2	2
T	-5	-3	-1	1	1	2
A	-6	-4	-2	0	1	1
G	-7	-5	-3	-1	0	2



# Considerations to the Needleman and Wunsch Algorithm

- ▶ The basic algorithm discussed so far implements a **global alignment**
  - ▶ It compares two sequences in their entirety



- ▶ This is not always always the most desirable way to align two sequences.

# The best alignment for a short sequence

## Example : AACACGTGTCT and ACGT

- ▶ From several possible alignments between AACACGTGTCT and ACGT
- ▶ The one we are most interested in is:

AACACGTGTCT
---ACGT----

- ▶ It is the most interesting because it demonstrates that the shorter sequence appears in its entirety within the longer sequence

# Semiglobal Alignments

Avoid penalizing for gaps that appear at one or both ends of a sequence

```
AACACGTGTCT  
---ACGT----
```

## Initial gaps without penalties

- ▶ In the first sequence, initialize the first column of the table to all zeros
- ▶ In the second sequence, initialize the first row of the table to all zeros

## End gaps without penalties

- ▶ In the first sequence, allow vertical moves without penalty in the last column of the table
- ▶ In the second sequence, allow horizontal moves without penalty in the last row of the table

# Exercise

1. Study how to fill the partial score table for a semiglobal alignment
2. Construct the partial score table for the following two sequences using the semiglobal approach

AACACGTGTCT
ACGT

# References

1. Fundamental Concepts of Bioinformatics (Chapter 2) by Dan E. Krane, Michael L. Raymer
2. Introduction to algorithms in bioinformatics (Chapter 3) by István Miklós